




EXTREME TERROR

Mali declares state of emergency

Page 2

French troops, rear, inside the Radisson Blu hotel after an attack by gunmen on the hotel in Bamako, Mali, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. Islamic extremists armed with guns and grenades stormed the luxury Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital Friday morning, and security forces worked to free guests floor by floor.

Associated Press



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Gunmen attack hotel in Mali's capital, killing at least 20

BABA AHMED

Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Heavily armed Islamic extremists seized dozens of hostages Friday at a Radisson hotel, but Malian troops, backed by U.S. and French special forces, swarmed in to retake the building and free many of the terrified captives. At least 20 people, including one American, were killed along with two gunmen during the more than seven-hour siege, a Malian military commander said.

An extremist group led by former al-Qaida commander Moktar Belmoktar claimed responsibility for the attack in the former French colony, and many in France saw it as a new assault on their country's interests a week after the Paris attacks.

While French President Francois Hollande did not link the violence at the Radisson Blu hotel with last week's bloodshed in Paris, he declared that France would stand by the West African country.

"Once again, terrorists want to make their barbaric presence felt everywhere, where they can kill, where they can massacre. So we should once again show our solidarity with our ally, Mali," he said.

Gunfire continued throughout the day at the hotel, which is popular with airline crews and other foreigners doing business in the capital of Bamako, but the shooting had stopped after dark.

Officials would not confirm that the entire complex had been secured by nightfall, although the only



Mali police walk outside one of the entrances to the Radisson Blu hotel's conference center after an attack by gunmen on the hotel in Bamako, Mali, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015

Associated Press

activity was firefighters carrying bodies to waiting ambulances.

Malian state television said late Friday night that the government had announced a 10-day state of emergency beginning at midnight as well as a three-day period of national mourning beginning Monday.

Army Cmdr. Modibo Nama Traore said late Friday that 20 people had been killed, including an official with Mali's gendarmerie. In addition, he said five people were injured including two police officers.

The U.S. State Department said one American was among the dead, though it did not identify the victim out of respect for the family.

Though Traore had earlier said as many as 10 attackers were involved, he said Friday night that there may

have been only two gunmen, both of whom were killed. A police officer at the hotel displayed photos of the two dead gunmen, their bodies riddled with bullets.

The siege began when assailants shouting "God is great!" in Arabic burst into the complex and opened fire on the hotel guards, Traore said earlier on Friday. About 170 guests and employees were initially taken hostage, but some apparently escaped or hid in the sprawling, cream-and-pink hotel that has 190 rooms and a spa, outdoor pool and ballroom. They included visitors from France, Belgium, Germany, China, India, Canada, Ivory Coast and Turkey.

"It was more like a real terrorist attack," said U.N. Mission spokesman Olivier Salgado. "The intention was clearly to kill, not to neces-

sarily have people being hostage."

Traore said 126 people had been escorted to safety, and that at least one guest reported the attackers instructed him to recite verses from the Quran as proof of his Muslim faith before he was allowed to leave.

As people ran for their lives along a dirt road, troops in full combat gear pointed the way to safety, sometimes escorting them with a protective arm around the shoulder. Local TV showed heavily armed troops in what appeared to be a lobby.

Monique Kouame Affoue Ekonde of Ivory Coast said she and six other people, including a Turkish woman, were escorted out by security forces as the gunmen rushed toward the fifth or sixth floor. Ekonde said she had been "in a state of shock."

Malian special forces went "floor by floor" to free hostages, Traore said.

U.S. special forces assisted, said Col. Mark Cheadle of the U.S. Army's Africa Command. At least six Americans were evacuated from the hotel, Cheadle said. U.S. officials were trying to verify the location of all American citizens in Mali.

National Security Council spokesman Ned Price praised the bravery of the Malian, French, U.N. and U.S. security personnel who responded, adding that Washington was prepared to assist Mali's government as it investigates "this tragic terrorist attack."

A unit of French soldiers was sent to Bamako in support of Malian security forces, the French Defense Ministry said. About 40 special police forces also played a supporting role, France's national gendarme service said.

The U.N. mission sent security reinforcements and medical aid to the scene, said U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq. A few U.N. staff were in the hotel but they got out safely, he added.

Reflecting the chaos surrounding the siege, various death tolls were reported during the day. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said 19 people died — 18 in the hotel and one Malian soldier killed in the fighting.

A U.N. official had earlier said initial reports put the number of dead at 27, but that different casualty figures have been reported and the organization is working with authorities to get an exact total. □

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U.S. lawmakers say forget Assad, focus on IS



In this June 2, 2011 file photo, Rep. Austin Scott, R- Ga., left, walks on Capitol Hill in Washington. In an unusual alliance, Austin and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, right, have teamed up to urge the Obama administration to stop trying to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad and focus all its efforts on destroying Islamic State militants. Associated Press

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an unusual alliance, a House Democrat and Republican have teamed up to urge the Obama administration to stop trying to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad and focus all its efforts on destroying Islamic State militants. Reps. Tulsi Gabbard, a Democrat, and Austin Scott, a Republican, introduced legislation on Friday to end what they called an “illegal war” to overthrow Assad, the leader of Syria accused of killing tens of thousands of Syrian citizens in a more than four-year-old civil war entangled in a battle against IS extremists, also known as ISIS. “The U.S. is waging two wars in Syria,” Gabbard said. “The first is the war against ISIS and other Islamic extremists, which Congress

authorized after the terrorist attack on 9/11. The second war is the illegal war to overthrow the Syrian government of Assad.” Scott said, “Working to remove Assad at this stage is counter-productive to what I believe our primary mission should be.” Publicly, the United States has focused its efforts on fighting IS and urging Assad to step down. But beyond thousands of U.S. airstrikes targeting IS in the region, the CIA began a covert operation in 2013 to arm, fund and train a moderate opposition to Assad. The secret CIA program is the only step the U.S. is taking on Assad militarily. In the Philippines on Thursday for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, President Barack Obama reiterated America’s demand that Assad must go. “The bottom line

is: I do not foresee a situation in which we can end the civil war in Syria while Assad remains in power,” Obama said. Since 2013, the CIA has trained an estimated 10,000 fighters, although the number still fighting with so-called moderate forces is unclear. CIA-backed rebels in Syria, who had begun to put serious pressure on Assad’s forces, are now under Russian bombardment with little prospect of rescue by their American patrons, U.S. officials say. For years, the CIA effort



had foundered — so much so that over the summer, some in Congress proposed cutting its budget.

Some CIA-supported rebels had been captured; others had defected to extremist groups. □

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Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a town hall meeting at the Ben Johnson Arena on the Wofford College campus, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015, in Spartanburg, S.C.
Associated Press

JULIE PACE

JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidates on Friday swiftly condemned Donald Trump's call for requiring

Muslims in the United States to register in a national database, drawing a sharp distinction with the front-runner for the party's nomination.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called Trump's pro-

Republicans disavow Trump's call for Muslim database

posal "abhorrent." Ohio Gov. John Kasich said Trump was trying to "divide people." And Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who has largely avoided criticizing Trump throughout the 2016 campaign, said that while he was a fan of the billionaire businessman, "I'm not a fan of government registries of American citizens." The unified pushback against Trump was rare. Republicans have vacillated in their handling of other inflammatory comments from the bellicose real estate mogul, wary of alienating the front-runner's supporters but also in-

creasingly concerned that he's managed to maintain his grip on the Republican race deep with the first primary votes less than three months away.

The rebuke followed Trump's call Thursday for a mandatory database to track Muslims in the U.S. In a video posted on MSNBC.com, Trump was asked whether Muslims would be required to register. He replied, "They have to be." He said Muslims would be signed up at "different places" and said the program would be "all about management."

The comments follow the terror attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the carnage, elevating fears of attacks in the U.S. and prompting calls for new restrictions on refugees fleeing war-torn Syria. Trump, along with retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, has stunned the political world with his rise to the top of some polls in the crowded Republican nomination race. The two outsider candidates continue to overshadow established politicians such as Bush, the son and brother of former presidents who had been expected to become an early favorite.

Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton took to Twitter Friday and challenged all Republican candidates to disavow Trump's comments.

"This is shocking rhetoric," she wrote. "It should be denounced by all seeking to lead this country."

Several did just that.

"You're talking about internment, you're talking about closing mosques, you're talking about registering people, and that's just wrong," Bush said Friday on CNBC.

Cruz told reporters in Iowa that the Constitution "protects religious liberty and I've spent the past several decades defending the religious liberty of every

American."

A spokesman for Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky said the candidate "does not support databases based on one's religion."

Kasich, the Ohio governor, said requiring people to register with the federal government because of their religion "strikes against all that we have believed in our nation's history." Kasich has faced criticism following the Paris shooting for saying he would set up an agency with a "mandate" to promote what he calls "Judeo-Christian values" overseas to counter Islamist propaganda.

The campaign trail comments come amid a debate in Congress about refugees from the Middle East. The House passed legislation Thursday essentially barring Syrian and Iraqi refugees from the United States. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has slotted the bill for possible Senate consideration, though it's unclear whether the chamber could get enough votes to override a veto by Obama, who opposes the measure.

Religious and civil liberties experts said Trump's idea is unconstitutional on several counts. The libertarian Cato Institute's Ilya Shapiro said the idea also violates basic privacy and liberty rights. "Individuals cannot be singled out for government surveillance and monitoring based on their religious beliefs," said Steven Shapiro, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Carson, who has challenged Trump's standing atop the Republican field, raised eyebrows Thursday when he compared blocking potential terrorists posing as Syrian refugees from entering the U.S. to handling a rabid dog. "If there's a rabid dog running around in your neighborhood, you're probably not going to assume something good about that dog," Carson told reporters at a campaign stop in Alabama. □

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E. coli outbreak linked to Chipotle expands to 6 states

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An outbreak of E. coli linked to Chipotle that originated in the Pacific Northwest has spread south and east and has now infected people in six states.

New cases have been reported in California, New York and Ohio, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. The first cases were discovered late last month in Oregon and Washington, and more recently in Minnesota. Investigators have yet to determine the specific ingredient linked to the illness.

So far, 45 people have been infected, with 43 of them saying they ate at Chipotle in the week before they became sick. The CDC said it is aware of illnesses starting on dates ranging from Oct. 19 to Nov. 8. The agency said that illnesses that took place after Oct. 31 may not have been reported yet.

Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. closed 43 restaurants in

Oregon and Washington in late October after health officials discovered most of the people sickened in the outbreak had eaten at its restaurants. The restaurants have since reopened.

"At the moment, we do not believe that it is necessary to close any restaurants," Chipotle spokesman Chris Arnold said in an email. He said the company has taken measures including deep cleaning in restaurants, replacing ingredients and providing supply chain data to investigators.

Chipotle, based in Denver, has more than 1,900 locations and has gained popularity by touting the freshness and quality of its ingredients. Earlier this year, the company ran into trouble after suspending a pork supplier that violated its animal welfare standards. That led to a shortage of carnitas at hundreds of locations around the country, which the company said dampened its sales growth. On news Friday that the



A customer leaves a Chipotle restaurant with food in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. Associated Press

outbreak had spread, shares of Chipotle plunged more than 12 percent to a new low for the year. Chipotle said affected individuals reported eating

at restaurants in Turlock, California; Akron, Ohio; Amherst, New York and Burnsville, Minnesota. The company said it is not aware of any employees who have become ill.

Bill Marler, a Seattle attorney representing people who have been sickened, said the spread of the outbreak will make it easier to determine the source.

"It helps investigators link up to a perishable item," Marler said. "What they're

really focusing on right now is the supply chain. What's the common denominator? Who supplied what product to these stores?"

Of those sickened, two have been in California, two in Minnesota, one in New York, one in Ohio, 13 in Oregon and 26 in Washington, according to the CDC.

Sixteen people have been hospitalized, but there have been no deaths, the agency said. □



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AP sources: Task force wants even smaller drones registered

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. aviation industry task force is recommending that operators be required to register drones weighing as little as a half a pound, a threshold that could include some remote-controlled toys, industry officials said. Federal Aviation Administration officials who convened the 25-member task force on drone registration have said they want to avoid requiring the registration of toys. But the consensus of the task force is that the weight threshold that triggers registration should be set at 250 grams or above, which is about a half-pound, said people familiar with its deliberations. The threshold is based on the potential impact a drone that size would have if it fell from the sky and struck a person or if it collided with a helicopter or plane, they said.

The recommendations were expected to be submitted to the FAA by Saturday. The FAA then can modify them, and hopes to issue the rules before Christmas to begin registering some of the thousands of drones expected to be purchased over the holidays. One industry official said the target date is Dec. 21. Four people familiar with the advisory group's deliberations described the conclusions to The Associated Press, speaking on condi-



In this photo taken June 11, 2015, a hexacopter drone is flown during a demonstration in Cordova, Md.

tion of anonymity because the FAA asked that the discussions be kept private. The registration requirement would apply to drone operators rather than individual drones to avoid requiring operators who own multiple drones to register more than once. The operator would receive a single registration number, which would then be affixed to the body of each drone. People who already own

a half-pound would have to register them. Registration could be done through an FAA website where an operator can provide name, address, phone number and other contact information and receive a registration number. The Consumer Technology Association estimates 700,000 drones will be sold in the U.S. this year, including 400,000 in the last quarter.

FAA officials said when they announced the formation of the task force last month that they hoped registration will help create a "culture of accountability" among drone operators and allow owners to be tracked down in the event of an accident. The FAA now receives about 100 reports a month from pilots who say they've seen drones flying near planes and airports, up dramatically from last year.

Associated Press

So far there've been no accidents, but agency officials have said they're concerned that even a small drone might cause serious damage if it is sucked into an engine, smashes into an airliner's windshield or collides with a helicopter's rotors.

Helicopters are the greatest concern because they frequently fly below 500 feet (150 meters) in the same airspace as small drones, said Jim Williams, the FAA's former top drone official now at an international law firm with drone-industry clients.

There are no studies on how much damage drones of different weight might cause to a helicopter or aircraft engine, he said. "I am not a fan of the weight limit because there's no science behind it," Williams said.


The weight threshold for drone registration in Europe is about 2 pounds, while Canadian officials are leaning toward a threshold of about 1 pound, industry officials said.

Williams said he hopes the FAA will add other requirements to the half-pound threshold that would eliminate most toys from the registration requirement. Williams said drones that can download real-time video are also a concern, because the operator becomes engrossed in the picture and is distracted.

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Bid to end California death penalty may collect signatures

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Death penalty opponents led by former "M-A-S-H" star Mike Farrell can begin collecting signatures for their latest attempt to repeal the ultimate penalty, increasing the chances that California voters will be faced with a choice between competing initiatives next year.

The secretary of state's office said Friday that backers have until May 17 to gather nearly 366,000 signatures if the measure is to appear on the November 2016 general election ballot.

Death penalty supporters, meanwhile, are attempting to gather enough signatures for their proposal

to speed up executions by providing more appellate lawyers and speedier appeals. That campaign was announced earlier this month by several prosecutors, police officers and family members of victims. More than 900 killers have been sentenced to die in the most populous state since the death penalty was restored in 1978, but just 13 have been executed. No one has been executed in California since 2006, when a federal judge forced a still-ongoing review of the state's lethal injection procedures.

The opponents' measure would replace the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole. It would apply retroactively to those

already on death row.

A similar proposal failed by 4 percentage points in 2012, but Farrell said the revised proposal has a better chance.

It would require murderers given life sentences to work in prison, with 60 percent of their wages going to victim restitution.

"That does make a difference to people," Farrell said in telephone interview. "People are not simply getting away with something, but in fact are going to pay for what they've done both with their lives and working to offer some compensation." Moreover, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst and state finance



In this March 7, 2008, file photo, actor Mike Farrell speaks to a group opposed to the death penalty in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

director project the measure could save state and local governments about \$150 million annually. That contrasts with the previous attempt in 2012 where the

projected savings were offset by a provision sending money to law enforcement agencies, a change Farrell said could draw more support. □

Professor, wife convicted of fraud in \$700,000 NASA contract

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A university professor and his wife were convicted Friday of defrauding NASA by letting graduate students and researchers do all the work on a \$700,000 project. Lehigh University engineering professor Yujie Ding and his wife, Yuliya Zotova, told NASA that their startup company would develop a cutting-edge sensor used to track climate change, The Morning Call of Allentown reported (<http://goo.gl/6uMWwh>).

Zotova, 41, who has a doctorate in physics, was supposed to run the project and oversee the work of graduate students and research fellows in her husband's laboratory at Lehigh. The students never saw her there, prosecutors

said.

Prosecutors called their company, ArkLight, merely "a front" to seek federal grants and said Ding, 53, hid his role in the company from Lehigh.

Zotova testified that her social anxieties prevented her from going to the lab but that she worked on the project at home. Her lawyer argued that the research found at the couple's home in Saucon Township showed the depth of her involvement. The jury deliberated for two days before convicting the couple of six of 10 fraud counts.

They each face up to 20 years in prison at their sentencing, scheduled for March 2. □

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Convicted spy Pollard is released after 30 years behind bars

ERIC TUCKER
DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonathan Pollard was released from prison Friday after 30 years behind bars for spying for Israel, his case a longtime irritant in relations between the two allies. His lawyers immediately went to court to challenge parole conditions that would let the government track his movements and monitor his computer use. The pre-dawn release from a federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, gave Pollard his long-sought freedom, but the legal and diplomatic wrangling that has defined the case continued.

Hours after he was driven away from the prison, the 61-year-old Pollard checked in with probation officers at a federal courthouse in New York City, then emerged into a throng of journalists. He wore loose-fitting khakis, a blue yarmulke and a slight smile.

"I can't comment on anything today," the Navy intelligence analyst said, his wife, Esther, on his arm. One of his lawyers and a U.S. marshal, grasping Pollard firmly by the arm, escorted him through the crowd of jostling photographers to a car.

Within hours of his release, Pollard's attorneys filed court papers in New York challenging his "onerous and oppressive" parole conditions.

Those include a requirement that he wear a GPS

ankle bracelet and submit to inspections of his computer at his home or at his job, which his lawyers said will be in the finance department of a New York investment firm.

Pollard's lawyers complained that wearing a GPS monitor would be harmful to his health because he has severe diabetes and chronic swelling in his legs and ankles. They said the computer monitoring is unnecessary because he no longer possesses any useful classified information.

His supporters, who have long maintained that he was punished excessively for actions taken on behalf of an American ally, are pressing President Barack Obama's administration to permit him to move immediately to Israel despite parole requirements that he remain in the U.S. for at least five years. Those supporters include Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who applauded Pollard's freedom.

"The people of Israel welcome the release of Jonathan Pollard," Netanyahu said in a statement. "As someone who raised Jonathan's case for years with successive American presidents, I had long hoped this day would come."

The White House renewed its longstanding opposition to the request that Pollard be allowed to leave the country. Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said Obama has no plans to alter the



Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard and his wife, Esther leave the federal courthouse in New York Friday, Nov. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

parole conditions.

Pollard was given a life sentence in 1987 for providing large amounts of classified U.S. government information to Israel. He was granted parole over the summer. His was among the highest-profile spy sagas in modern American history, a case that became a diplomatic sticking point. Supporters praised him for aiding an ally, while critics called him a traitor to his country.

"I don't think there's any doubt that the crime merited a life sentence, given the amount of damage that Mr. Pollard did to the United States government," said Joseph diGenova, who prosecuted the case as U.S. attorney in Washington. "I would have been perfectly pleased if he had spent the rest of his life in jail."

Seymour Reich, a former president of B'nai Brith

who visited Pollard twice in prison, said that while he believes Pollard broke the law and deserved to be punished, his sentence was overly harsh. Like other supporters, he said Pollard was "double-crossed" into thinking he would receive leniency in exchange for a guilty plea.

U.S. officials have said Pollard, over a series of months and for a salary, provided intelligence summaries and huge quantities of classified documents on the capabilities and programs of Israel's enemies. He pleaded guilty in 1986 to conspiracy to commit espionage.

Israel initially claimed that Pollard was part of a rogue operation but acknowledged him in the 1990s as an agent and granted him citizenship.

Although he has said his guilty plea was coerced, he has also expressed re-

gret for his actions, telling The Associated Press in a 1998 interview that he did not consider himself a hero. "There is nothing good that came as a result of my actions," he said. "I tried to serve two countries at the same time. That does not work."

Last year, the U.S. dangled the prospect of freeing Pollard early as part of a package of incentives to keep Israel at the negotiating table during talks with the Palestinians. But the talks fell apart, and Pollard remained in prison.

The decision to grant him parole came amid a public disagreement between the U.S. and Israel over a nuclear deal with Iran. But U.S. officials have said the decision to let Pollard out on parole had nothing to do with that deal and was not meant as a concession for Israel.



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Obama to visit Asia refugee center amid raging debate in U.S.

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — President Barack Obama is planning to visit a refugee center in Malaysia, casting a spotlight on the plight of those fleeing violence and persecution from Myanmar to Syria.

Obama's tour of the Dignity for Children Foundation on Saturday comes amid a raging debate back home over Obama's plan to allow thousands of Syrian refugees to resettle in the U.S. The foundation provides schooling and assistance to refugees who have fled to Kuala Lumpur, and Obama's aides said he intended his visit to illustrate how an escalating global refugee crisis only increases prospects for violence that could reach America's shores.

"We can't say to other countries, 'You need to take in refugees, you need to take your fair share, but we're going to slam the door,'" said Obama's deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, predicting other nations would follow suit. "Suddenly you have masses of displaced peoples who are essentially in limbo. That clearly is a recipe for greater instability."

Pervasive concerns that Islamic extremists could slip into the United States and commit attacks like those in Paris have led many U.S. lawmakers to

insist Obama's refugee program be halted or, at a minimum, that entry requirements be tightened. Obama has refused to entertain either idea.

The president has insisted he'll veto a bill in Congress raising the bar for entry for

ding efforts to reform the visa waiver process, but those proposals seemed highly unlikely to satisfy critics who want the refugee program halted. Obama wants to take in roughly 10,000 Syrians in the next year.

Obama's administration has played a central role in Myanmar's emergence from brutal military rule, a transformation Obama considers a key foreign policy success. Yet the continued persecution of Rohingya remains a stain

The refugee debate has played out this week as Obama traveled to Turkey, the Philippines and Malaysia, but it will confront him directly when he returns to Washington early Monday. One of his first orders of business will be a meet-



U.S. President Barack Obama smiles as he takes questions from the floor at the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) town hall meeting at Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015.
Associated Press

Syrian refugees. The measure passed the House by an overwhelming, veto-proof margin that included scores of Democrats.

Obama sought to change the subject Friday by throwing his support behind bud-

Many of the refugees living in Malaysia are Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar to escape persecution by the country's Buddhist majority.

on the country's record, and even opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, an Obama ally whose party triumphed in recent elections, has been sharply criticized for looking the other way.

ing with French President Francois Hollande, who is vowing war against the Islamic State group as nations across Europe clamp down on border controls out of fear that terrorists could strike again. □

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1 week after attacks, defiant Parisians honor the dead

KARL RITTER
LORNE COOK
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A week after the deadliest attacks on France in decades, shell-shocked Parisians honored the 130 victims with candles and songs Friday, knowing that at least one suspect is still at large and fearing that other militants could be slipping through Europe's porous borders. Having established how the attacks against a soccer stadium, sidewalk cafes and a rock concert were carried out, investigators were still piecing together details on the assailants and how they converged in the French capital. Prosecutors said Friday that they had determined through fingerprint checks that two of the seven attackers who died in the bloodshed had entered Europe through Greece on Oct. 3. Previously they had said



Belgian Army soldiers patrol in the picturesque Grand Place in the center of Brussels on Friday, Nov. 20, 2015.

only one attacker had been registered in Greece, an entry point for many of the hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking asylum in Europe. That man carried a Syrian passport naming

him as Ahmad Al-Mohammad, though it's unclear whether it was authentic. The five other attackers who died had links to France and Belgium. One of the seven dead has not

been identified, while a manhunt is underway for one suspect who escaped, Salah Abdeslam, 26. French police stopped Abdeslam the morning after Friday's attacks at the Belgian border but then let him go.

Belgium early Saturday raised the terrorism threat alert for the Brussels area to its highest level, indicating a "serious and immediate threat."

French police official Jean-Marc Falcone, speaking on France-Info radio, said he was unable to say if Abdeslam, whose brother, Brahim, blew himself up in the attacks, could be back on French territory.

The suspected ringleader, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, was killed in a pre-dawn raid Wednesday on an apartment in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, along with Hasna Aitboulahcen, a 26-year-old woman who said she was his cousin. Prosecutors said Friday that a third person was killed in the raid but did not release the identity.

They also said Aitboulahcen had not blown herself up with a suicide vest, as initially believed, which suggests the body parts collected after the raid belonged to the third, unidentified, person.

Meanwhile in Brussels, European interior and justice ministers vowed to tighten border controls to make it

easier to track the movements of jihadis with European passports traveling to and from warzones in Syria. "We must move swiftly and with force," French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said. "Europe owes it to all victims of terrorism and those who are close to them."

Cazeneuve said the 28-nation bloc must move forward on a long-delayed system for collecting and exchanging airline passenger information, data he said is vital "for tracing the return of foreign fighters" from Syria and Iraq.

Highlighting how easily some Islamic militants seem to be able to move in and out of Europe, French officials say they don't know when and how Abaaoud, a 28-year-old Belgian of Moroccan descent, entered France. They had believed he was in Syria until receiving a tipoff Monday that he was in France.

Abaaoud was wanted in Belgium where he had been convicted in absentia of recruiting foreign fighters for the Islamic State group and kidnapping his brother, who he persuaded to join him in Syria at age 13.

According to Moroccan news site Le360.ma, which has close ties to the royal palace, it was Morocco that gave the French information about Abaaoud's whereabouts. France has only said it got the information from a country outside Europe.

On Friday French President Francois Hollande met Jordan's King Mohammed VI and thanked the monarch for "Morocco's assistance in the wake of last Friday's attacks."

Marking a week since the carnage, some Parisians lit candles and paid tribute to the victims with silent reflection.

"I'm still reeling, because these are the neighborhoods where we young people go out a lot, places we know well," said student Sophie Garcon as she looked at tributes left outside the Le Carillon bar, where gunmen sprayed automatic weapons fire.



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Portugal allows same-sex adoption, artificial insemination

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal's Parliament has approved laws allowing same-sex couples to legally adopt children and permitting lesbians to obtain medically assisted fertilization.

Left-of-center parties used their outright parliamentary majority to ensure the bills passed Friday. The Socialist Party, Communist Party and Left Bloc had promised those measures during their campaigns for last month's general election.

Parliament in 2013 approved a law allowing gay married couples to adopt their partners' children but rejected legislation granting gay couples the same adoption rights as heterosexuals. □

UN: 729 human rights activists slain in Colombia since 1994

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The United Nations says 729 human rights activists have been killed in Colombia in the past two decades. That's an average of nearly three a month.

A statement from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights' office in Colombia says 30 activists were slain this year through September. It adds that 20 more have been the targets of attempted murder in 2015.

The statement says an "insecure and hostile environment" persists for rights workers in the Andean nation, with authorities unable to guarantee their safety.

The figures are being published as talks on ending Colombia's half century-old internal conflict enter their third year. The government saying it expects them to wrap up in early 2016.

The chief prosecutor's office responded Friday by saying investigating violence against activists is a priority. □

Study: Poverty in Venezuela at 73 percent of households

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A study estimates poverty in Venezuela has hit an all-time high of some 73 percent of households.

The report says that's up from about 27 percent in 2013 and 48 percent in 2014.

It was prepared by researchers at three Venezuelan universities on the basis of surveys with 6,000 people in the nation of 30 million.

Poverty rates plummeted during the first years of Venezuela's 16-year-old socialist revolution under the late President Hugo Chavez. □

Thousands take part in black women's march in Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) —

Thousands of black women from across Brazil marched on the nation's capital on Wednesday to call attention to the pervasive violence and discrimination they suffer.

Organizers described the march, which brought several thousand participants to a lawn in front of Congress, as the first of its kind. A scuffle broke out after march participants clashed with a separate group urging the impeachment of embattled President Dilma Rousseff.

A report in the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper said three lawmakers were hit by police pepper spray as they stepped in between the two sides. Globo television network's Internet portal G1 said two police were detained after they shot into the air.

Valdecir Nascimento, one of the organizers of Wednesday's march, said it was intended as a response to the "vulnerability and fragility" that Brazil's more than 57 million black and mixed race women face on a daily basis.

Studies have shown that in Brazil, black women are more likely to die in childbirth and become victims of homicide than their white counterparts. They are also twice as likely as white women to be illiterate, according to the national statistics agency, and on average they earn less than white women or men of either race.

Wednesday's demonstration came amid a recent tide of feminist campaigns in Brazil, including a social media-based campaign called #myfirstharassment,



A group of women pose for an usie during a march by black women to protest the violence and discrimination they say they suffer, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015.

Associated Press

which saw thousands of women go public with accounts of the first time they experienced sexual harassment — most as very young adolescents or even pre-

teens. Another recent social media campaign saw prominent male editorialists turn over their columns to female counterparts for a day. □



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Cuba blames U.S. for instigating surge of migrants from island

JAVIER CORDOBA
CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban officials blamed the United States late Tuesday for instigating a surge in the number of Cuban migrants attempting to reach the U.S. through Central America amid ongoing efforts to normalize relations between the former Cold War foes.

In a statement aired on the government's nightly broadcast, Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations said U.S. policy allowing nearly all Cuban migrants who reach U.S. soil to stay contradicts ongoing efforts to renew relations between the countries.

"This policy encourages illegal emigration from Cuba to the United States and constitutes a violation of the letter and spirit of the migration accords," the statement read.

The statement marked Cuba's first official response to the swell of migrants fleeing the island since Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced plans to restore diplomatic ties nearly one year ago.

The situation intensified Sunday when Nicaraguan troops forcefully pushed Cuban migrants trying to cross the border en route to the United States back into neighboring Costa Rica.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Manuel Gonzalez said in a radio interview Tuesday that there are nearly 2,000 people currently at the border being blocked by Nicaraguan soldiers from entering the country. He proposed the creation of a "humanitarian corridor" for Cubans transiting Central America.

"We have to do something with them, give them a solution," Gonzalez said.



A Cuban migrant holds a sign that reads in Spanish "Help us Obama" during a protest at the Costa Rican border with Nicaragua, Monday, Nov. 16, 2015.

"They want to continue. Even though a government sends the army after a peaceful migrant population, they are going to find a way to go."

More than 45,000 Cubans arrived at U.S. checkpoints along the border between Texas and Mexico in the fiscal year that ended in September. Many migrants from the island fear that the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Washington and Havana may bring an end to the "wet-foot, dry foot" policy permitting most Cuban migrants to stay.

Those who flee Cuba on raft and are caught by the U.S. Coast Guard at sea are usually returned.

U.S. officials have stated they do not have any intention of changing current immigration policy toward

Cuba. The U.S. and Cuba have held regular meetings on migration accords since the 1990s.

Cuban officials have repeatedly asked that Washington rescind the "wet-foot, dry foot" policy, saying it encourages Cubans to attempt perilous trips that have claimed an untold number of lives.

Dagoberto Fernandez, a Cuban mechanic traveling with his pregnant wife, said they began their journey from Ecuador and had no problems until now.

"Everyone that we have encountered since leaving Ecuador is behaving well. The problem began upon arriving at the border with Nicaragua," Fernandez said.

"We don't want to stay. We don't want problems," he said. "We're a group

of human beings trying to achieve their dream: arrive in the United States."

Costa Rica announced Friday that it was issuing special seven-day transit visas for Cuban migrants. The proposed humanitarian corridor would seek to protect their rights as they travel north through Central America.

Ecuador does not require Cubans to obtain visas, so many begin their journey there.

Immigration authorities in Costa Rica say another group of 1,500 Cubans who crossed into the country Saturday from Panama are making their way north.

About 300 Cubans are expected to arrive at Costa Rica's southern border each day.

Before Cuban officials released their statement, a

group of about a dozen young adults gathered on a busy Havana intersection to demand the government address the situation early Tuesday evening.

"Many people don't have any idea what is going on," said Taylor Torres, 30, a blogger who said he found out about the swell of Cubans pushed away from the Nicaraguan border only after reading a story on the Internet, which many Cubans do not have access to.

Taylor and others convened after word spread online calling for "flashmob without borders" via social media. Such spontaneous gatherings are highly unusual in Cuba.

The demonstration quickly dispersed after it began to rain. □

Associated Press



De Palm Tours – Winner of the Reef Alliance Award, 2nd year in a row!



November 2015, BALASHI

- Every year people from around the world are inspired to participate in The International Coastal Cleanup – the world's largest volunteer effort for our oceans. Ambassadors of the event – hosted by Ocean Conservancy – aim to turn the tide on trash and work toward the ultimate goal of trash free seas.

Among the volunteers is a group of dedicated individuals from the ARUBA Reef Care Project, who

celebrated their 21st cleanup in support of the international event.

Employees and their family of De Palm Island, Atlantis and De Palm Tours collaborated during the cleanup, which took place on September 20th. The group came together to cleanup the pier at Port De Palm and a nearby mangrove habitat.

Divers scoured the coastal water around De Palm Island, while other workers combed the beaches. In total 102 bags were filled

with different kinds of garbage like plastic bags, bottles, cigarettes and much more. The debris was moved from the island to the mainland with the help of a tugboat from Atlantis.

"I am so happy with the outcome... the amount of volunteers and what they have achieved," said Miriam van de Plassche, manager of De Palm Island. De Palm Island is dedicated to maintaining and protecting sea creatures and the environment, and they use creative ideas to achieve their goals.

This outstanding commitment and volunteer work has earned De Palm Tours the Reef Alliance Award for the 2nd consecutive year. The annual award, presented by Reef Alliance, is exclusively for a Sea TREK operator whose staff is dedicated to proactive conservation efforts, such as those demonstrated by The De Palm Sea TREK team and their work with the Aruba Reef Care Project.

In addition to the cleanup, the De Palm Sea TREK staff is also committed to sustainable eco-tourism. Since 2002 the team has created and maintained an enhanced Sea TREK dive site with repurposed vehicles, such as an airplane and a bus. The manmade site alleviates pressure from the natural reef, providing additional homes and hiding places for an abundance of sea life. Un-



fortunately, due to recent environmental challenges associated with river runoff and poor water clarity, the enhanced Sea TREK team finally revealed their new Sea TREK dive site in early October. The site, which includes a bus and a Land Rover Defender, offers an

excess of hiding places and homes for the local marine.

De Palm Tours wants to thank their staff members and volunteers for being part of this big achievement. For more information about De Palm Tours visit depalmtours.com. □

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A musical evening with Padu benefit concert



"Friends of Padu" are organizing a special benefit concert to raise funds for the Padu Del Caribe Museum.

Poet, musician, author and the co-writer of Aruba's national anthem, "Aruba Dushi Tera,"

Juan Chabaya Lampe, also known as "Padu del Caribe," was born in Oranjestad in 1920. He is largely recognized as the Father

of Aruban Culture and a national treasure.

This star-studded show will present Padu's musical jewels.

Musicians and singers that will be performing during "An evening with Padu" are Catherine Provence, Etty Toppenberg, Rob Rinboud, Livio Hermans, Rachel Kraayvanger, Mario Middendorp, Justin Peña, Ebby Peterson, Angelique

Jansen, Tica Giel, Jonathan Ortega Olano, Johnny Schaarbay, Omar Kock, Victor Samuel, Victor Camacho.

Friends of Padu with the on Sunday November 22nd, 2015, begins at 6 p.m. at Cas di Cultura. Entrance will be 15 florin. Tickets are available at the door.

Guest artists from Curaçao include Norman Moron and Ced Ride. □



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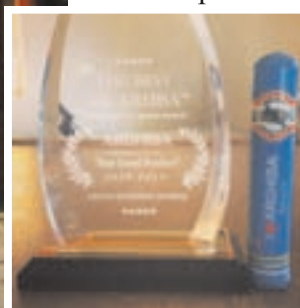
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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Continued from page 14

Juan Chabaya Lampe, also known as "Padu del Caribe," was born in Oranjestad in 1920. He is largely recognized as the Father of Aruban Culture and a national treasure.

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PWA WAVE WORLD TOUR 2015 ENDS IN MAUI, HAWAII

“Sarah-Quita Offringa makes her mark in the waves”

The sun sets on the 2015 PWA Wave World Tour in the most spectacular fashion

The elite of the wave sailing world headed for the iconic Ho'okipa Beach Park, Maui, between the 28th October until the 10th November for what is widely regarded as the most prestigious event on the World Tour calendar — The Maui Aloha Classic sponsored by NoveNove — and with world titles on the line and everyone desperate to scoop this illustrious accolade the stakes couldn't have been higher.

Over the next 14 days in Maui the waves were up to double mast high and regular trade winds bombarded Ho'okipa leading to a fitting finale as the sun eventually set on another pulsating PWA Wave World Tour.

Sarah-Quita Offringa may have only been competing on the Wave World Tour for the past two years, but the Aruban gem is al-



ready beginning to make her mark in the waves. In fact Offringa was just 0.99 of a point away from overtaking Daida Moreno into second place, as a 6th place finish at the NoveNove Maui Aloha Classic would have just done that but Nayra Alonso (Fanatic / Severne) prevailed with 12.37 points to Offringa's 11.38 points.

Sarah-Quita Offringa completes the overall women's wave podium for the first time in her career and said:

“Wave is my new challenge and the goal was to finish top three this year. I just thought that would be cool. But now that I have it, I have the same feeling I had finishing 3rd in Pozo. It's great to have this mix of events of port and starboard tack and be able to sail against the best girls in the world of all these spots. It's a dream come true finishing on the podium for WAVE sailing. Unknowingly it was something I wanted badly. I get to be up there



next to Daida and Iballa and that's real cool! Big, big congrats to all the ladies out there, especially charging at this event in Ho'okipa. They're all very inspiring to me. It is time to to celebrate with some champagne!!” Sarah-Quita who had to sail in the single elimination in heat 10 had after one good wave ride been totally annihilated in mast and a half high waves. The local riders had taught her to remain calm and stay under

while counting slowly to 10 before surfacing to avoid being bashed by the white foam of the braking waves. Her gear ended up on the rocks while she hitched a jetski ride inside with the skull base crew only to find her board broken but her sail still intact. The heat was cancelled as the girls were pinned on the inside by a rapidly increasing swell. The second elimination saw her reach 6th place of the event affording her a 3rd place overall podium finish.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, is fouled by Milwaukee Bucks' Jerry Bayless in the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

NBA Capsules

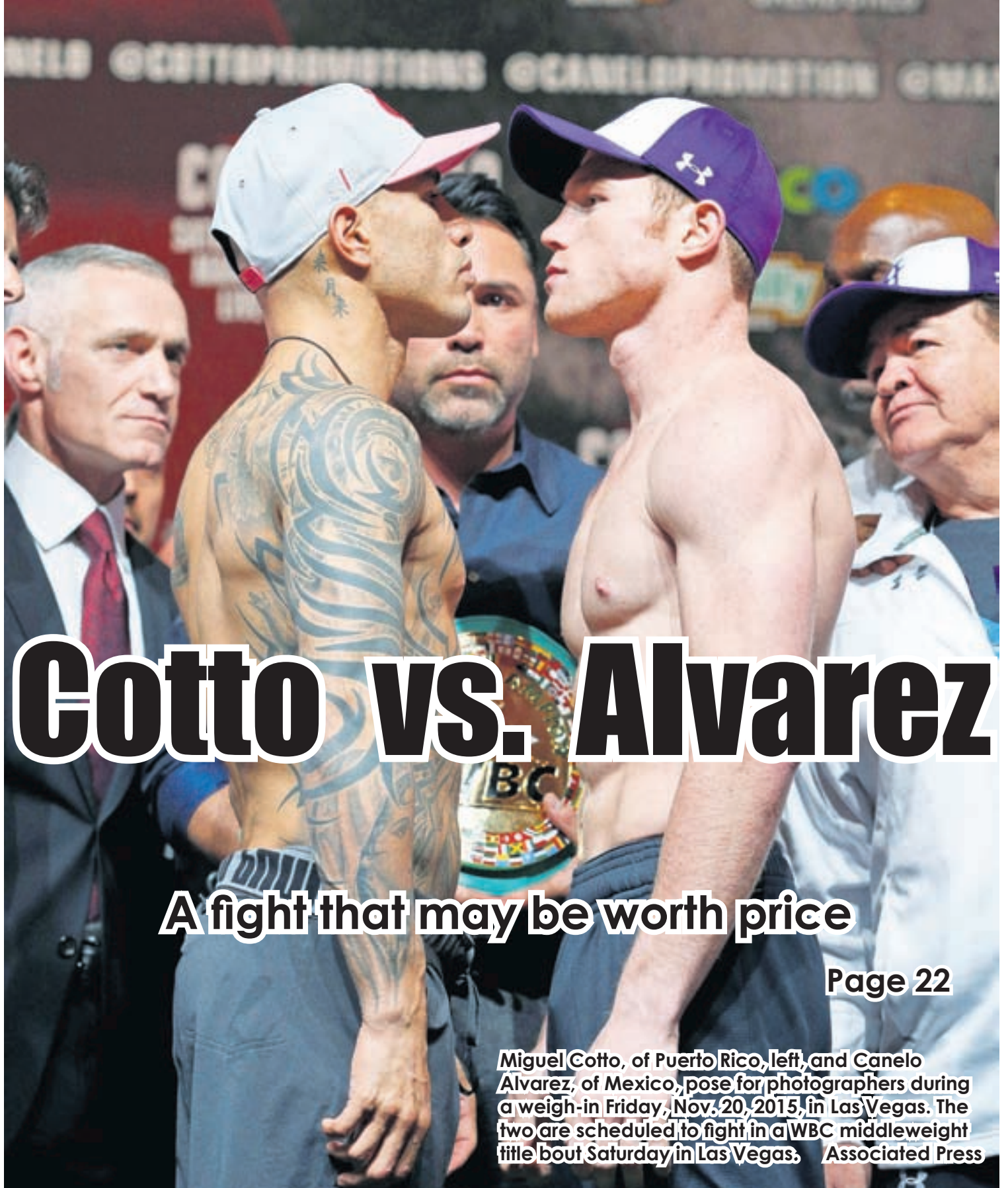
James, Love lead Cavaliers past Bucks, 115-100

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 27 points, and Kevin Love added 22 points and 15 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 115-100 on Thursday night. Cleveland ended a two-game losing streak and avenged a double-overtime loss in Milwaukee on Saturday night. The Cavaliers lead the Eastern Conference at 9-3.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a career-high 33 points for Milwaukee, and the Bucks rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second quarter to cut the lead to 84-79 late in the third.

Continued on Page 22



Cotto vs. Alvarez

A fight that may be worth price

Page 22

Miguel Cotto, of Puerto Rico, left, and Canelo Alvarez, of Mexico, pose for photographers during a weigh-in Friday, Nov. 20, 2015, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a WBC middleweight title bout Saturday in Las Vegas. Associated Press

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NHL Capsules

Stars beat Capitals 3-2 despite milestone goal by Ovechkin

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his 484th NHL goal, breaking Sergei Fedorov's record for most by a Russian-born player, but the Dallas Stars bounced back to beat the Washington Capitals 3-2 Thursday night.

Ovechkin's goal came at 7:01 of the third period, knotting the score at 2. He converted a backhand pass from Nicklas Backstrom, shoving the puck into the left side of the net. Just more than 4 minutes later, Jason Spezza converted a turnover by Washington's Jason Chimera into the go-ahead score. Ovechkin scored No. 484 in his 777th game; Fedorov had 483 goals in 1,248 games.

Dallas has won eight straight against the Capitals, including five in a row in Washington. Kari



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, left, from Russia, celebrates his goal with center Nicklas Backstrom (19), from Sweden, during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Dallas Stars, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, in Washington.

Associated Press

Lehtonen stopped 33 shots for the Stars, improving to 9-1 this season.

The victory boosted the Stars' point total to 32, best in the Western Conference. Tyler Seguin and Cody Eakin also scored for Dallas.

Backstrom had a goal for the Capitals.

LIGHTNING 2, RANGERS 1

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Valtteri Filppula scored a short-handed goal to snap a tie late in the third period as Tampa Bay ended New York's nine-game winning streak.

In their first meeting since the Lightning beat the Rangers in Game 7 of last season's Eastern Conference final, Filppula scored with 1:05 to play off a 2-on-

1 pass from J.T. Brown.

Tampa Bay also got a goal from Alex Killorn. Ben Bishop stopped Chris Kreider's penalty shot in the third and finished with 20 saves, improving to 9-0 against the Rangers in the regular season.

Dominic Moore scored for the Rangers, who fell one short of matching the franchise record of 10 straight wins accomplished in 1939-40 and 1972-73.

BLUES 3, SABRES 2, SO

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Alexander Steen scored the only goal in a shootout and Jake Allen made 32 saves to lift St. Louis over Buffalo.

The Blues have won seven straight and 17 of 19 against Buffalo since 1999. Kevin Shattenkirk and

Vladimir Tarasenko scored power-play goals in regulation for the Blues (13-6-1), who had lost three of four. Allen stopped four shots in the 3-on-3 overtime period. Sam Reinhart and Ryan O'Reilly scored in regulation for the Sabres (8-9-2), who have lost three straight after a stretch of five wins in six games. Linus Ullmark stopped 27 shots.

COYOTES 3, CANADIENS 2

MONTREAL (AP) — Martin Hanzal and Shane Doan scored in the first period as Arizona held on to beat Montreal.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson also scored for the Coyotes, who lost their previous two games.

Max Pacioretty and Dale Weise had the goals for the

Canadiens (14-4-2), who have gone four games without winning in regulation. They have allowed 16 goals while going 1-2-1 during that stretch.

Weise scored with 51 seconds left. Montreal outshot the Coyotes 33-20.

Arizona scored three times on its first six shots against Mike Condon as Montreal fell behind 3-0 for the third game in a row.

SHARKS 1, FLYERS 0, OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Melker Karlsson scored 3:45 into overtime and Martin Jones made 34 saves in his third shutout of the season, giving San Jose a victory over Philadelphia.

Joonas Donskoi set up the game-winner on a 2-on-1 with Karlsson, who beat goalie Steve Mason. It was the fifth straight road win for the Sharks, who improved to 4-0 on their six-game road trip and 8-3 away from home this season.

It also was the 13th win in 14 games for San Jose against the Flyers, and the Sharks' eighth straight victory in Philadelphia. The Flyers last defeated the Sharks at home on Dec. 21, 2000.

Philadelphia dropped its sixth in a row at home, matching its longest skid since April 2011.

BRUINS 4, WILD 2

BOSTON (AP) — Loui Eriksson scored three goals as Boston beat Minnesota.

Eriksson wrapped up his hat trick when he converted a perfect give-and-go from David Krejci early in the third period. □




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NFL Roundup

Greene's punt return helps Jaguars beat Titans 19-13



Jacksonville Jaguars' Rashad Greene runs back a punt return past Tennessee Titans cornerback Cody Riggs (37), Steven Johnson (52) and Marqueston Huff (28) during the second half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015.

MARK LONG
AP Sports Writer
JACKSONVILLE, Florida
(AP) — The Jacksonville Jaguars have their first winning streak in more than two years. Rashad Greene returned a punt 63 yards, setting up Blake Bortles' 5-yard touchdown pass to Julius Thomas with 3:30 remaining, and the Jaguars beat the Tennessee Titans 19-13 on Thursday night. The Jaguars (4-6) won consecutive games for the first time since December 2013 and gained ground in the muddled AFC South. The Titans (2-8) lost for the

eighth time in nine games and spoiled interim coach Mike Mularkey's return to Jacksonville. Mularkey was fired after one season with the Jaguars, a 2-14 campaign in 2012. For much of the night it looked as if Mularkey would celebrate a rare win in Jacksonville. But Greene, a rookie who missed the last seven games while recovering from a torn ligament in his left thumb, weaved his way down the near sideline before finally getting tackled at the 5. Bortles hooked up with Thomas on the next play, putting Jacksonville ahead

16-13. It was an easy call for Bortles, who noticed linebacker Derrick Morgan lined up across from Thomas before the snap. Phillip Supernaw fumbled on the ensuing possession, leading to Jason Myers' fourth field goal of the night and a six-point lead with 2:19 remaining. The Titans had one final chance and advanced to the 23 with 5 seconds remaining. But Andre Branch sacked Marcus Mariota on the final play. Branch did his usual windmill dance as he was mobbed by teammates. Bortles, who left the sideline briefly to be treated

for dehydration, completed 21 of 30 passes for 242 yards. He extended his touchdown streak to 10 games. He also had two turnovers that kept Jacksonville from getting ahead earlier in the game. The Jaguars failed to score on three trips inside the 20. Bortles threw an interception at the 12, adding to

the team's woes in and near the red zone. Myers made kicks from 31, 32, 20 and 36 yards. The biggest head-scratcher for Jacksonville was running backup Denard Robinson three times, beginning with a first-and-goal play from the 7 early in the third quarter. Robinson was stopped for no gain on the final two carries. □

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NFL Preview

Can Vikings stop Packers' recent control of rivalry?

NEW YORK (AP) — For the last five years, Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers have had a firm grip on this border state rivalry with the Minnesota Vikings that has otherwise been remarkably close.

Well, the Vikings have a prime opportunity to pry themselves loose in the NFL on Sunday.

"We're going out there playing at a very high level. Guys know that this is the year for us," cornerback Captain Munneryn said. "We've been doing what we're supposed to do. It's the time. The time is now."

The Packers will bring a sputtering offense, injured important players, and a three-game losing streak to Minnesota to face a well-rounded team that has won five games in a row to take over the NFC North lead. The Packers are the underdogs for the first time this season.

The Packers have won nine of the last 11 matchups, losing once in 2012 with one tie. Rodgers, who missed the tie in 2013 because of a broken collarbone, has been as responsible for this recent run as anyone.

Since taking over as the starting quarterback in 2008, Rodgers has a 71.1 completion percentage, 32 touchdown passes and only four interceptions in 15 games against the Vikings. Yes, Rodgers has an injury to his right shoulder that limited him in practice this week. Sure, he has slipped to 18th in the league with an average of 7.3 yards

per attempt. There's no disputing that his impeccable accuracy has not quite been the same.

The Vikings, though, remain respectfully wary.

game of the NFC East lead behind Kirk Cousins' passing, but their turnaround will be tested by the Carolina Panthers, who have the best record in franchise his-

toried for second best in the league.

The Redskins, like everyone else, have seen Newton's touchdown celebration dance — and, like every-

If Tom Brady is standing outside Gillette Stadium on Monday with a welcoming sign for the Buffalo Bills, that's understandable. The New England Patriots have won 27 of the last 31 meetings dating to 2000, Brady has 24 regular-season wins against the Bills — more than against any other opponent in his career — and has more touchdown passes (61) against Buffalo than any team.

Both clubs come off emotional victories at the Meadowlands. Buffalo beat the Jets in coach Rex Ryan's return to where he worked for the previous six seasons, and New England needed a 54-yard field goal by Stephen Gostkowski in the dying seconds to edge the Giants. When the Cincinnati Bengals visit the Arizona Cardinals, it will be the Carson Palmer show.

Palmer was the top overall pick in the 2003 draft by the Bengals and had some success there, forced a trade in 2011 (to Oakland) and has revived his career in the Valley of the Sun. Palmer ranks second in the NFL in passer rating (108), with Cincinnati's Andy Dalton, who has started every game for the Bengals since Palmer left, ranking fourth (104.6).

Cincinnati tasted defeat for the first time last Monday against Houston. The league switched this game to prime time in the U.S. The Bengals play their third straight night game, the Cardinals their second. □



In this Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015 file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) runs against the Oakland Raiders during an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif. The Packers need to get production in the running game to ease the pressure on quarterback Aaron Rodgers. But on defense, Green Bay is trending in the right direction at least as it prepares for Minnesota's Adrian Peterson.

Associated Press

"We don't take lightly what they've done before they got on the three-game losing streak. They're going to come in ready to play," said Adrian Peterson, the NFL leading rusher. "They've got Aaron Rodgers, so they always have a chance."

The Washington Redskins have moved within a

tory at 9-0.

Cam Newton has matured into a force as the Panthers have won 13 straight regular-season games, scoring at least 27 points in seven consecutive games. Carolina's defense, paced by linebacker Luke Kuechly and cornerback Josh Norman, has helped it to a plus-8 turnover margin,

one else, had opinions on it. "Hey, the guy is entertaining, man. He's good for the sport, man," Redskins defensive lineman Jason Hatcher said. "The guy can dance. Just turn the music off, he'll stop dancing. ... That's what I'm going to do. I'm going to say 'DJ, cut! Enough dancing, Cam.'"

Nadal outlasts Ferrer to stay unbeaten at ATP finals



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to David Ferrer of Spain singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London, Friday, Nov. 20, 2015.

MATTIAS KAREN
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Rafael Nadal outlasted David Ferrer 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4 Friday to finish the group stage unbeaten at the ATP World Tour Finals. Neither player had much at stake as Nadal had already clinched first place in the group and Ferrer had been eliminated, but the two baseline sluggers still went at it relentlessly for more than 2 ½ hours in a

match full of heavy hitting and long rallies. Nadal earned the decisive break to go up 5-4 in the third set — having previously wasted five break points in a marathon first game of the decider — and sealed victory with a backhand volley winner. Nadal faces Novak Djokovic in the semifinals Saturday, and this kind of grueling encounter probably wasn't the best preparation — especially as the

Serb No. 1 had the day off. But Nadal is more concerned with maintaining his late-season resurgence after struggling for most of the year. "For me it was another opportunity to compete. I think I competed well. I won a very tough match," Nadal said. "Three straight wins against top-eight players, that's great news for me. ... That's a positive way to finish the season. Let's see tomorrow what's going to happen." Later Friday, Andy Murray plays Stan Wawrinka with the winner earning a semifinal against Roger Federer. Ferrer lost his first two group matches to fall out of contention and looked ready for a holiday when he dropped his first two service games to hand Nadal a 3-0 lead in the first set. But Ferrer responded by winning the next four games, only to be broken again for 6-5 and give his fellow Spaniard a chance to serve out the set. However, Nadal missed a set point after rallying from 0-40 down and Ferrer

eventually converted his fifth break point to force the tiebreaker. In the second set, Nadal broke for 5-3 and served it out at love to even the match. The third then began with the best game of the match, which lasted nearly 14 minutes and 200 shots — including some spectacular winners from both players. Ferrer saved five break points before

finally converting his third game point. That game seemed to take its toll on both players and neither had another break point until Ferrer netted a backhand at 4-4 and Nadal then hit a forehand winner down the line to take the lead for good. "Rafael in the third set, he improved his game," Ferrer said. "It was close, but he was better." □

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SAT 3:25 | 9:15
SUN & HOL 3:25 | 9:15

3D VERSION
MON-FRI 6:20
SAT, SUN & HOL 6:20

THE 33
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:25 | 9:10
SAT 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2
MON-FRI 4:35 | 7:30
SAT 1:50 | 4:35 | 7:30
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:35 | 7:30

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MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:50
FRI 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SAT 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50

THE PEANUTS MOVIE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:55 | 7:00
FRI 4:55 | 7:00
SAT 2:50 | 4:55 | 7:00
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Cotto vs Alvarez in big middleweight fight in Las Vegas

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The grand plan for Canelo Alvarez is to win Saturday night, then set up his pay-per-view franchise on the same Mexican holiday weekends that Floyd Mayweather Jr. always made his millions.

The plan for Miguel Cotto isn't nearly as ambitious, though it could be almost as lucrative. After reinventing himself with famed trainer Freddie Roach, Cotto will be in the mix for even more big money fights should he upset Alvarez in their 155-pound fight. Unlike Alvarez, Cotto will have to do it without a title after being stripped of his piece of the middleweight crown this week for refusing to pay a \$300,000 sanctioning fee to the WBC.

"I don't need a title," Cotto said. "This fight speaks for itself."

Promoters hope it is speaking loudly as they try to sell the bout from the Mandalay Bay resort for \$69.95 on pay-per-view. Cotto and Alvarez could potentially be a fight of the year candidate, but could also be a tough sell for those disillusioned with Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s win over Manny Pacquiao in May. They're counting on big Hispanic interest in a fight matching traditional rivals from Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Rico.

"For Latinos all over the world, this is our Super Bowl," said Oscar De La Hoya, who promotes Alvarez. "This is an event that not one Hispanic, not one Latino is going to miss. That is how important this event

motions.

It's a fight that could do a lot for both boxers. It's also a fight Alvarez needs badly if he is to become the superstar De La Hoya believes he will be and be a part of big fights in May and September next year.

Alvarez would be declared the WBC champion if he wins the bout, but the title would be vacant if Cotto wins.

Not that Cotto is terribly concerned with the gaudy green belt. After paying Golovkin \$800,000 to step

ter nearly ending his career following back-to-back losses to Mayweather and Austin Trout in 2012. He was getting hit too much and went to Los Angeles to see if Roach could help lead a resurgence in the ring.

The two clicked, and Cotto has stopped all three of his opponents under Roach.

"I wanted to make sure I still had something," Cotto said. "Possibly I would have retired from boxing three years ago if Freddie didn't think I had something left."

Alvarez, whose only loss came to Mayweather in their 2013 fight, has won his three fights since. He's already a huge draw in his native Mexico and has shown he can sell pay-per-views, although a win over Cotto could take him to a new level. Alvarez likes to walk down his opponents and is more than willing to trade punches. Cotto has in the past gotten into exchanges he later regretted. But at age 35, he wants to box more against an opponent who is a decade younger. "I know I can punch, and I can hit hard," Cotto said. "But now at this moment I'm looking for the perfect occasion, and I'm creating the perfect opportunity just to hit my opponent. Now I understand that I have 36 minutes to finish my opponent, and I use every second of it." □



Miguel Cotto, of Puerto Rico, left, and Canelo Alvarez, of Mexico, pose for photographers during a weigh-in Friday, Nov. 20, 2015, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a WBC middleweight title bout Saturday in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

is to us." Alvarez is a 3-1 favorite in a fight that will be closely watched by others in or near the middleweight division. Title holder Gennady Golovkin will be at ringside, and could face the winner sometime next year in a megafight that would rival some of the retired Mayweather's pro-

"We understand obviously the magnitude of this fight," Alvarez said through an interpreter. "We must win the fight."

The fight was going to be for Cotto's middleweight title, but that went out the window this week when he refused to pay the sanctioning fee to the WBC. Al-

aside so he could fight Alvarez, he wasn't going to dig any deeper into his wallet despite his \$10 million payday for the bout.

"With \$1.1 million, I can buy any belt I want," Cotto said. "I can be champion of whatever I want in my own house." Cotto has rebounded under Roach af-

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 17

Anderson Varejao, who came off the bench to score nine points, helped Cleveland build the lead to 97-84. James scored six points and Love had a three-point play in that stretch.

J.R. Smith added 18 points for Cleveland.

Antetokounmpo was 12 of 15 from the field and made all eight of his free throws. Greg Monroe scored 17 points, and Khristian Middleton added 15 for Milwaukee.

WARRIORS 124, CLIPPERS 117

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stephen

Curry scored 40 points as Golden State rallied from a 23-point, first-half deficit to beat Los Angeles for its 13th consecutive victory to start the season.

Klay Thompson added 25 points, Harrison Barnes had 21 and Draymond Green 19 for the Warriors, one of four teams in NBA history to open 13-0. They improved to 6-0 on the road.

Chris Paul scored a season-high 35 points, including 18 while igniting the Clippers in the opening quarter in his return from missing two games with a sore right groin. Blake Griffin added 27 points and Jamal Crawford had 15.

HEAT 116, KINGS 109

MIAMI (AP) — Chris Bosh had 23 points and 11 rebounds as Miami beat Sacramento, taking advantage of Kings star DeMarcus Cous-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Wesley Johnson defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015, in Los Angeles. The Warriors won 124-117.

Associated Press

his last five games, was suspended for hitting Atlanta's Al Horford in the head with a forearm Wednesday night in the Kings' loss to the Hawks. The Kings are 0-5 without Cousins this season and 11-38 since he joined the team in 2010.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 24 points, and Tyler Johnson had 19. Sacramento's Rajon Rondo had a season-high 18 assists, 14 points and nine rebounds after having three triple-doubles in his previous four games. Marco Belinelli led the Kings with 23 points. □

ins' one-game suspension. Cousins, averaging 30.8 points in



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Review: Samsung's Gear VR shows the promise of VR _ today

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Samsung makes history of a sort Friday by launching the first major consumer-oriented virtual-reality headset. (It comes with an asterisk; prototypes and other not-quite-mass-market versions have been available for a while.) And its Gear VR headset is pretty impressive as first-generation devices go.

The biggest surprise after using the new Gear VR for a few days: There's a lot of stuff to watch and play in the virtual worlds the headset opens up. Granted, some of that material is gimmicky or amateurish. But the best of it hints at some of the mind-expanding experiences VR can make possible.

The Gear VR is relatively cheap, too, at just \$100. You do need your own headphones, preferably wireless, plus a recent Samsung phone — the Galaxy S6, S6 Edge, S6 Edge Plus or Note 5. If you don't already have one, the package could set you back nearly \$1,000. (Other VR systems will also need companion devices, such as high-end personal computers.)

Samsung developed the Gear VR with the virtual-reality startup Oculus (now part of Facebook). It supplants the \$200 "innovator edition" Samsung has sold for a year. That earlier prototype was mainly intended to build enthusiasm for VR and to help developers start producing games and apps for it. Samsung bills the new model as its first consumer VR product, although it still requires some savvy on the consumer's part to use.

ABOUT THE DEVICE

Your phone attaches to the front of the Gear VR headset, just in front of the lens for your eyes. Put the headset on, and your surroundings disappear as the phone screen opens a window into an unreal, three-dimensional world. As you turn your head, the image shifts accordingly to give the sense of being there in real life. You can even turn all the way around to see what's behind you. The screen projects slightly different perspectives to your left and right eyes to give the virtual world depth.

The Gear VR wasn't easy to set up. I had trouble figuring out where all the Velcro straps and hooks were supposed to go. I couldn't get the phone to snap into place. I needed the manual to find a lever I had to switch because I had a larger phone, the Note 5. Many consumers might



This photo provided by Samsung shows Samsung Gear VR headset. There are the promises of virtual reality in the form of headsets that drop you into another world and offer 360-degree views that shift as you turn your head.

Associated Press

In this June 11, 2015 file photo, the new Oculus Rift virtual reality headset is on display following a news conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

WHAT TO DO WITH IT

Fortunately, it was worth

or apps will set you back \$2 to \$10.

And some apps were surprisingly absorbing. The notion of the Netflix app, which streams video to a virtual TV in front of you, initially seemed silly. Why not watch a real TV? Well, the virtual TV is huge, much larger than what I could afford in real life. And VR also removes the distractions surrounding you — such as Facebook.

Repeat viewings sometimes turned up unexpected detail. Not until a second viewing of a Cirque du Soleil video did I notice performers to my left and right. In a horror video, I initially kept my eyes on a

woman in distress; only later did I see scary creatures crawling out of a playground. You're no longer stuck with whatever the director chooses for you.

But one video of the Oct. 13 Democratic presidential debate was disappointing. There were four VR cameras around the room, but you couldn't pick the one to watch. And in 3-D, candidates looked like dolls on stage. It was a novel idea, but it'll take time to figure out what works and what doesn't. This one was also long, while the best ones were typically a few minutes each.

A few apps also have interactive elements. One lets you walk around a cafe depicted in the Vincent Van Gogh painting "The Night Cafe." Another lets you explore an island and solve puzzles to open doors. It made me nauseous, though.

It'll be great to see interactive storytelling, with plot lines that change depending on which rooms you choose to explore. And eventually filmmakers will rely less on stationary cameras. A VR piece featuring a hike with Reese Witherspoon could have let you hike with her, rather than watch from afar. □



need help from a tech-savvy friend or kid.

I also got frustrated having to wait for apps and video to download — a few minutes in some cases. The Gear VR can stream relatively few videos for instant playback.

the wait most of the time, even if many of the videos seemed like concepts intended to demonstrate the Future of Virtual Reality or are merely promotions for regular movies and TV shows. A lot of it is free, though some videos



More Thanksgiving travelers; don't get stuck at the airport

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A

stronger economy and lower gas prices mean Thanksgiving travelers can expect more congested highways this year.

During the long holiday weekend, 46.9 million Americans are expected to go 50 miles or more from home, the highest number since 2007, according to travel agency and car lobbying group AAA. That would be a 0.6 percent increase over last year and the seventh straight year of growth.

While promising for the travel industry, the figure is still 7.3 percent short of the 50.6 million high point reached in 2007, just before the recession.

Like on every other holiday, the overwhelming majority of travelers — almost 90 percent — will be driving. And they will be paying much less at the pump.

AAA says the average retail price for gasoline is



In this Nov. 25, 2014 file photo, travelers check in their luggage as they prepare to travel at Miami International Airport in Miami.

now \$2.15 per gallon, 74 cents cheaper than the same time last year. With the average car getting 18.5 miles per gallon, that means a family driving 300 miles will save \$12 in fuel this holiday.

Airlines for America, the lobbying group for several

major airlines, forecasts 25.3 million passengers will fly on U.S. airlines, up 3 percent from last year. (AAA's forecast shows fewer numbers of fliers because it looks at a five-day period while the airline group looks at the 12 days surrounding Thanksgiving.)

Airfare is basically flat compared to last year, with a mere 0.3 percent or 69 cent average increase, according to the Airlines Reporting Corp., which processes ticket transactions for airlines and travel agencies.

Traveler counts are little fuzzier when it comes to other forms of transport.

Bus use will continue to grow, according to the Chaddock Institute for Metropolitan Development at DePaul University. The school expects 1.2 million to take buses, up 1 percent to 2 percent from last year. However, AAA says travel by cruises, trains and buses, will decrease 1.4 percent this Thanksgiving, to 1.4 million travelers.

AIR TRAVEL TIPS

Since flying can often cause the most disruptions and leave travelers feeling helpless, here are some tips to cope with any delays. Flights are packed around the holidays and if there is any hiccup, the difference between getting home and not can come down to asking the right questions and acting fast.

DELAYS

— At the first sign of a serious mechanical problem, call the airline to have it “protect” you on the next flight out. That way if the mechanical problem leads to a cancellation, you are already confirmed on a new flight and can just print a new boarding pass.

— If you miss your flight connection — or bad weather causes delays — get in line to speak to a customer service representative. But also, call the airline directly. If the phone lines are jammed, try the airline's overseas numbers. You'll pay long-distance rates, but might not have to wait. (Add those numbers to your phone now.) Finally, consider sending a tweet to the airline.

— Consider buying a one-day pass to the airline lounge. For one thing, there are usually free drinks and light snacks. But the real secret to the lounges is that the airline staffs them with some of its best — and friendliest — ticket agents. The lines are shorter and these agents are magically able to find empty seats. One-day passes typically cost \$50 but discounts can sometimes be found in advance online.

— If weather causes cancellations, use apps like HotelTonight and Priceline to find last-minute hotel discounts for that night. Warning: Many of the rooms are nonrefundable when booked, so lock in only once stuck.

LUGGAGE

— Weigh it at home first. Anything over 50 pounds (40 pounds on some airlines like Spirit) will generate a hefty overweight surcharge, in addition to the checked bag fee.

— Before your bag disappears behind the ticket counter, make sure the airline's tag has your name, flight number and final destination. Save that sticker they give you — it has a bag-tracking number on it.

— Place a copy of your flight itinerary inside your suitcase with your cellphone number and the name of your hotel in case the tag is ripped off.

— If you can't live without it, don't check it. It might take days to return a lost bag. Don't pack medication or outfits for tomorrow's meeting or wedding. Never check valuables such as jewelry or electronics. □

U.S. bank offering debit card for American travelers to Cuba

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — American travelers who've had to carry wads of cash while visiting Cuba will now have a debit card option.

Stonegate Bank of Pompano, Florida, announced Thursday it is offering a debit MasterCard that U.S. travelers will be able to use at hotels, restaurants and other sites in Cuba.

The card will not work at any of the island's ATMs, though the bank said it hopes to make that service available in 2016.

“This is the first step in relieving the burden of U.S. travelers carrying cash when traveling to Cuba and another step in normalizing commercial relations between the two countries,” Stonegate president and CEO Dave Seleski said.

MasterCard announced in January it would begin handling U.S. card transactions in Cuba, but most



International Air Transport Association Director and CEO Tony Tyler waves from a vintage American car used as a taxi, in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015.

Associated Press

credit-card issuers still prohibited transactions on the island, making the move largely symbolic.

Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced plans to restore relations between the former Cold War foes nearly a year ago. The U.S. lifted a ban on U.S. banks and

credit card companies from doing business in Cuba as part of the normalization.

The number of U.S. travelers to the island surged by more than 50 percent in the first six months of 2015, according to statistics compiled by the University of Havana. □

Corporate America's problem: Falling profit, revenue

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Corporate America has a profit problem. U.S. company earnings are falling for the first time since 2009, when the economy was still reeling from the Great Recession.

The main culprit is the plunging price of oil, which has decimated earnings at big energy companies like Exxon Mobil and Chevron. Mining companies have also taken a beating because of tumbling prices for gold, silver and copper.

Earnings at energy companies dropped a staggering 59 percent in the third quarter, enough to drag overall profits for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index down 1.5 percent, according to estimates by S&P Capital IQ. That marks the first quarterly decline in six years. Without the drag of energy companies, overall earnings would be up 6.2 percent.

To be sure, earnings are still high by historical standards, and the U.S. economy is continuing to slowly improve. But with stock indexes near record highs, the weak earnings make many stocks vulnerable to declines. And energy companies aren't the only ones having trouble earning

money, as several thorny problems continue to nettle Corporate America.

The strong dollar makes it much harder for U.S. companies to compete in overseas markets; slowing growth in other countries, especially China, means weaker exports; and in the last week several big retailers like Macy's and Best Buy have reported weak sales and poor outlooks for the holiday shopping season.

This has contributed to a trend that concerns some even more than feeble profits: Revenue for S&P 500 companies has shrunk in all three quarters so far this year.

In the past, U.S. companies have been able to push their earnings per share higher even with lower revenue by slashing costs, cutting jobs, and spending huge amounts of money, often borrowed at cheap rates, to buy back their own stock. It stopped working this quarter.

"We're at the point where we can't get any more blood out of the stone," says Kristina Hooper, U.S. investment strategist for Allianz Global Investors.

As a result, investors are going to need to be a lot more selective about what stocks they buy and not just assume that a recov-



In this Feb. 13, 2015, file photo, stacks and burn-off from the Exxon Mobil refinery are seen at dusk in St. Bernard Parish, La.

Associated Press

ering economy will mean equally good results for all good U.S. companies. For example, \$1,000 invested in an index of S&P 500 energy stocks at the beginning of the year would be worth about \$866 today, while the same amount in the S&P 500 index would be worth \$1,015.

That's not to say, with results now in from 473 of the companies on the S&P 500 index, that the earnings news is all bad. Big profit gains at Alphabet, Google's parent company, the video game

maker Activision, health care companies and consumer giants like Netflix and Amazon are helping to make up for the losses at energy and mining companies. This quarter, earnings per share for consumer discretionary companies rose 16 percent and profits for telecommunications and health care companies grew 15 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ. But the skid in profits and sales helps explain why U.S. companies have been buying each other up at

such a fast pace. Many companies have been growing by making acquisitions rather than investing in their own businesses. That has helped put corporate deals at more than \$3 trillion so far this year, according to Dealogic. That's already a record for an entire year, with six weeks left to go in 2015.

The barrage of deals has helped to lift stock prices, but once the merger frenzy abates, so too could the positive effect on the stock market. □

Stocks march higher, ending their best week so far this year

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market closed out its best week of the year Friday as big gains by retailers and technology companies pushed major indexes upward.

Stocks faded as Friday wore on, but they still finished higher. The S&P 500 index climbed almost 3.3 percent this week. By just a hair, that was its biggest weekly gain in 2015.

Stocks climbed Monday and Wednesday as the U.S. market didn't seem to be affected by a string of unsettling international events, including last Fri-

day's terrorist attack in Paris. Instead, investors responded to signs the U.S. economy remains strong.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 91.06 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,823.81. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 7.93 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,089.17. The Nasdaq composite index gained 31.28 points, or 0.6 percent, to 5,104.92. The Dow turned positive for the year by a fraction of a point.

"Throughout the week we got more and more news that the Federal Reserve was assessing the economy favorably," said Erik Davidson, chief investment of-

ficer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

Davidson said investors have slowly gotten used to the idea that the Federal Reserve is going to raise interest rates. That prospect worried them greatly a few months ago, but now, stocks are rising because investors are taking heart that the Fed believes the economy is on solid footing. Meanwhile, new economic stimulus in Europe could strengthen the global economy.

Retailers rallied after solid earnings reports from discount chain Ross Stores and footwear seller Foot Locker. Retail stocks got



In this July 6, 2015 photo, American flags fly at the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street.

Associated Press

pummeled this month after weak reports from Macy's and Nordstrom caused investors to worry that the holiday shopping season would be a bust. But some retailers are doing well. Ken Perkins, president of

the research firm Retail Metrics, said shoppers are looking for discounts and turning to lower-priced retailers like TJ Maxx and Ross Stores and to "fast fashion" retailers who keep up with the latest trends. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6			7		4	1		
	4					8	6	
			1				7	
1		4				9		
		2				4		5
	1				7			
	3	8					5	
		5	9		3			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	5	3	7	8	9	6	4	1
	6	9	4	1	5	2	7	8	3
	8	7	1	4	6	3	2	9	5
	1	6	5	9	3	8	4	7	2
	7	3	8	2	4	5	1	6	9
	9	4	2	6	1	7	3	5	8
	3	1	9	5	7	4	8	2	6
	5	8	7	3	2	6	9	1	4
4	2	6	8	9	1	5	3	7	

ACROSS

- 1 Bowler's targets
- 5 African nation
- 10 Takes advantage of
- 14 Underground plant part
- 15 Allowed by law
- 16 Ring out
- 17 "Wonderful Life"
- 18 Fragrance
- 19 Facts & figures
- 20 Distinguished conductor
- 22 Ambassador's residence
- 24 Color
- 25 Parade entry
- 26 Building wing
- 29 Attempt
- 30 Miami __, FL
- 34 Member fees
- 35 Edison's initials
- 36 Sell from a cart
- 37 Letters before an alias
- 38 Cool desserts
- 40 To the __; fully
- 41 European language
- 43 Sty resident
- 44 Stand up
- 45 School writing assignment
- 46 Bic product
- 47 Sworn pledges
- 48 Symbol
- 50 Bath's spot
- 51 Clothing
- 54 Trash
- 58 Deafening
- 59 Night stand awakener
- 61 Mountain goat
- 62 Short note
- 63 Cone-shaped dwelling
- 64 Albacore, e.g.
- 65 Celebrity
- 66 One-dish meals
- 67 Flower stalk

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22		23					
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26	27	28			29			30			31	32	33	
34				35			36							
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45				46			47							
			48		49		50							
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58				59		60				61				
62				63						64				
65				66						67				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/21/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

J	I	B	S		A	N	T	I	C		A	C	H
O	H	I	O		D	I	A	N	A		S	L	A
B	O	N	D		D	E	C	A	P	I	T	A	T
S	P	A		K	I	C	K			T			U
				T									
S	H	I	E	S				C	A	T			
L	O	O	N	S		D	A	I	L			A	N
A	U	N	T		N	O	V	E	L		P	R	A
T	R	A		M	A	L	E	S		L	U	C	R
			S	L	E	E	V	E		W	A	R	I
				N	A					R	I	D	E
S	H	A	L	L			E	O	N	S		S	A
P	U	N	I	S	H	A	B	L	E			T	I
A	G	T	S		A	M	B	E	R		A	S	A
R	E	S		S	A	S	S			E	M	M	

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11/21/15

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 42 Bullfighter | 50 Subdues |
| 44 Long-eared
animals | 51 Charitable gift |
| 46 Bit of hamster
food | 52 Verse writer |
| 47 "Faith of ____
Fathers" | 53 Wild feline |
| 49 Ode writer
John | 54 Expanded |
| | 55 Border on |
| | 56 Autry or Kelly |
| | 57 Test |
| | 60 Primate |



In this Sept. 22, 2015, file photo, the logo of Volkswagen at a car is photographed during the Car Show in Frankfurt, Germany. Associated Press.

EPA says VW cheating software may be on more vehicles

**TOM KRISHER
MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Volkswagen's emissions cheating scandal widened Friday as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said that clandestine software allowing six-cylinder Volkswagen diesel engines to cheat on pollution tests is on more models than originally thought. The EPA and the California Air Resources Board said the German automaker acknowledged the software is on about 85,000 Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche vehicles with 3-liter engines going back to the 2009 model year. Earlier this month the agencies accused VW of installing the so-called "defeat device" software on about

10,000 cars from the 2014 through 2016 model years, in violation of the Clean Air Act. The statement says the agencies will investigate and take appropriate action on the software, which the regulators claim allowed the six-cylinder diesels to emit fewer pollutants during tests than in real-world driving. The latest allegation means that more Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche owners could face recalls of their cars to fix the software, and VW could face steeper fines and more intense scrutiny from U.S. regulators and lawmakers. Audi spokesman Brad Stertz on Friday conceded that VW never told regulators about the software, in violation of U.S. law. □

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wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
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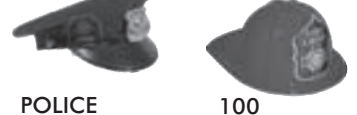
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Shrinking Amazon forests may lose thousands of trees species

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A first-of-its-kind examination of the Amazon's trees found that as many as half the species may be threatened with extinction or heading that way because of massive deforestation. Among the more than 5,000 tree species in deep trouble: the ones that produce Brazil nuts and mahogany.

An international team of 158 scientists found that depending on the degree to which deforestation comes under control in the next 35 years, between 36 and 57 percent of the 16,000 tree species in the tropical rainforest area would be considered threatened. Their study is published in Friday's edition of ScienceAdvances.

The range rests on whether cutting down the region's forest continues at the rate of the late 20th and early 21st centuries or slows down to lesser levels proposed in 2006, study authors said.

If deforestation continues at the same pace, nearly 8,700 tree types are in trouble, but the number of species at risk could be as low as 5,500 if nations are able to cut back as planned, said study co-author Nigel Pitman from the Field Museum in Chicago.

"We've never had a good idea of how many species are threatened in the Amazon," Pitman said Friday. "Now with this study, we have an estimate."

About 15 years ago, the Amazon was losing about 11.6 million square miles (30 million sq. kilometers) of forest a year, said Tim Killeen, a scientist from Agteca Amazonica in Bolivia. But that figure has dropped to about 3.8 million square miles (10 million sq. kilometers) a year, he said.

Killeen said the tree that produces Brazil nuts is seriously under threat, while "mahogany is commercially extinct throughout the Amazon." He said that means there's no more industry harvesting the



In this April 23, 2002 file photo, specimens from the Brazil nut, Lecythidaceae family, are displayed inside the Herbarium at The New York Botanical Garden, in the Bronx borough of New York.

Associated Press

wood, but some trees exist. Duke University ecologist

Stuart Pimm, who was not part of the study, praised

the work as sensible and important.

Hold on a second:

UN kicks 'leap second' decision down road

BERLIN (AP) — For this decision, a U.N. agency has decided to take its time.

The International Telecommunication Union said Thursday that it had considered a proposal to abandon the "leap second" at a conference in Geneva, but recommended further study.

The practice of periodically adding an extra second to compensate for the slightly slower rotation of the Earth has kept computers synchronized with the planet's 24-hour day since 1972.

The international timekeepers said they needed more details on the possible impact of ending the practice, and would evaluate the findings at a meeting of the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023. Until then, leap seconds will be added as needed.

The last leap second was added on June 30; the time before that was in 2012.

JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The algae bloom that spread across Lake Erie this summer was the largest on record and left behind a thick, paint-like scum that covered an area roughly the size of New York City, government scientists said Tuesday. The bloom fueled by heavy summer rains surpassed the record-setting algae outbreak in 2011 that stretched from Toledo to Cleveland, said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Scum from the bloom covered about 300 square miles in early and mid-August, the agency said. But the actual bloom was

much larger. Just how big is still being determined, though it was clearly bigger than anything measured so far, said Richard Stumpf, a NOAA researcher. The massive algae colony this year stayed toward the center of the lake between Canada and Ohio and away from the shoreline, which lessened the impact on boaters and drinking water plants, he said. Toxins from a much smaller bloom in August 2014 contaminated the tap water for 400,000 people in the Toledo area and a sliver of southeastern Michigan. Heavy rains across northern Ohio in June and July washed huge amounts of algae-feeding phosphorus

into the lake. Algae blooms — linked to phosphorus from farm fertilizers, livestock manure and sewage treatment plants — have taken hold in the western third of the lake over the last decade and colored some of its waters a shade of green that looks like pea soup. The blooms, which typically peak from the middle of August through the end of September, also have been blamed for contributing to oxygen-deprived dead zones where fish can't survive. Ohio, along with Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario, agreed in June to sharply reduce the amount of phosphorus flowing into western Lake Erie within the next 10 years.

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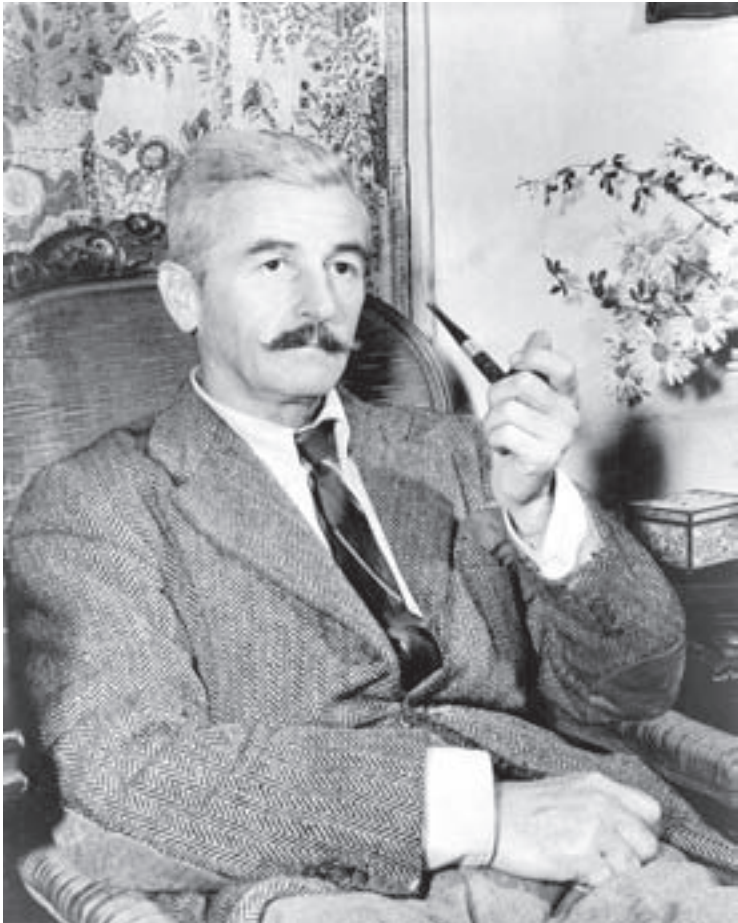
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Long-lost Faulkner play published for the first time



This 1950 file photo shows American novelist William Faulkner at his home in Rowan Oaks near Oxford, Miss.

Associated Press

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "'Twixt Cup and Lip,' written soon after World War I and being published for the first time, is a one-act comedy in which a modern, free-thinking woman finds herself courted by two men and changes her mind at the last moment.

Compared to other plays from the 1920s, "'Twixt Cup and Lip" was not uncommon with its matter-of-fact references to sex and drinking and the characters' unending cigarettes. Even now, audiences might laugh at such lines as "Marriage is stylish again you know" and "I thought all men papered their room with actresses and fat girls in bathing suits."

But the name of the playwright is the real attraction: William Faulkner.

Written when the future Nobel laureate was in his early 20s, "'Twixt Cup and Lip" was discovered in the University of Virginia archives

by The Strand Magazine managing editor Andrew Gulli, who over the past few years has also tracked down long-lost and obscure works by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and many others. The play appears in the Strand's holiday issue, which went on sale Friday. "Faulkner wrote this at a time of great change in society especially for women," Gulli told The Associated Press recently.

"This work is unique in that it showed a side of Faulkner that was comical yet that at the same time explored the nascent theme of the independent jazz era female which F. Scott Fitzgerald and Dorothy Parker carried on further."

Faulkner, who died in 1962, is an acknowledged giant of American fiction, but in his early years was more likely to write plays and poetry. Christopher Rieger, director of the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State Univer-

sity, believes "'Twixt Cup and Lip" was written in the early 1920s, when Faulkner was part of a theater group at the University of Mississippi.

The play's title is lifted from an old English expression "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," meaning a seemingly settled event can still unravel. But readers will find nothing suggesting the tragic vision and anguish about the Southern past that made "Absalom, Absalom," "The Sound and the Fury" and other Faulkner novels some

of the most influential and haunting works of the 20th century.

"He's showing a knack for comedy and a knack for dialogue, too," says Rieger, noting that years later Faulkner worked on Hollywood screenplays. "You're not seeing the trademarks from his more famous works, although the techniques he's perfecting here would serve him well." Around the time he wrote "'Twixt Cup and Lip," Faulkner also worked on the one-act "The Marionettes," a romance based

on Faulkner and his high school girlfriend (and future wife) Estelle Oldham. Rieger says "'Twixt Cup and Lip" also may be drawn from Faulkner's relationship with Oldham.

"Not long before he worked on those plays, Estelle had caved to her parents' pressure and married another man," Rieger said. "Faulkner may have had some resentment that she didn't stand up for them and used the play as a kind of wish fulfillment — imagining her as more independent." □

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Nat Geo movie tells gritty Pilgrims' tale

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With its political infighting, tip-of-the-arrow diplomacy and climactic decapitation scene, the National Geographic Channel's film "Saints & Strangers" is the "Game of Thrones" version of the first Thanksgiving.

The four-hour movie will premiere Sunday and Monday on National Geographic (9 p.m. EST on both nights), following a rush to finish in time for the holiday. It tells the story of the religious pilgrims and thrill-seeking opportunists thrown together on the Mayflower and their efforts to build a settlement peacefully among the Native Americans they encounter.

Judging from accounts from the time, the elementary-school textbook tales of pilgrims and Native Americans holding hands



This image released by National Geographic shows Kalani Queypo as Squanto, right, teaching pilgrims how to plant crops in a scene from "Saints & Strangers," premiering Nov. 22-23 at 9 p.m. ET.

over a harvest are too simplistic. So are suspicions that settlers went on a murderous rampage. The truth was far more complex, said Seth Fisher, the movie's chief writer.

"There was a lot of palace intrigue," said Grant Scharbo, an executive producer.

Scharbo and his wife, Gina Matthews, were making the project as a short-run series for NBC when that network backed out a year ago. They made a deal with National Geographic, an affiliation the producers believe will enhance the film's legitimacy. National Geographic pressed for

Associated Press

historical accuracy, even hiring an expert to teach actors the Abenaki language used in the film.

After some ups and downs, the leaders forged a peace with Massasoit, leader of the Pokanoket tribe. He warned the settlers that other tribes were planning an attack. The settlers, led by William Bradford, held a meeting with other tribal leaders ostensibly to forge peace, but instead the English turned on them during the meal.

As the pilgrims later celebrated a feast with Massasoit and his tribe, the entrance to Plymouth was "guarded" by the severed head of Wituwamat, leader of the Massachusetts tribe.

Scharbo said his 10- and 6-year-old children can see most of "Saints & Strangers," but certainly not the decapitation scene. He acknowledges there was

some debate about including it.

"Our goal was to tell the true story," he said. "The problem is that the story has been sanitized to such a degree that no one knows the real story."

Tim Pastore, programming chief at National Geographic, said the network takes depictions of violence on the air very seriously. "At the end of the day, the authenticity of telling the story as it was, was the guiding star to stay true to," he said.

The pre-emptive attack led to a 50-year stretch of peace between the settlers and Native Americans. The filmmakers said they were surprised at the amount of strong source material available to help with the story, and that there were many more characters and subplots that could have been used but they had to be

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

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A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



In any ensemble, Mark Ruffalo is still standing out

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Is there any better team player in movies than Mark Ruffalo? Whether running in a pack of superheroes, wrestlers or journalists, Ruffalo has a rare ability to slide seamlessly into an ensemble while nevertheless standing out for his talent in doing so. A year after Ruffalo received an Academy Award nomination for his supporting performance as Olympic wrestler David Schultz in "Foxcatcher," the actor is again expected to be Oscar nominated for his key role as a dogged Boston Globe reporter in the newspaper procedural "Spotlight."

"I've been at the right place at the right time for these two movies, and been able to disappear into the beauty of an ensemble, to serve something that's bigger than any one particularly individual," says Ruffalo. "They say something at a moment when the culture's ready to hear it. A movie, if it speaks to people, it bubbles out of the culture and lands at a moment when we're ready to have a discussion."

Ruffalo, one of the movie industry's most outspoken advocates for environmental (and other) causes, rarely turns down a conver-

sation. (He began a recent interview eagerly imploring a reporter: "Talk to me!") He has regularly poured his considerable energy into both political activism

and off.

"I see a lot of light on the horizon. I call it 'the sunlight revolution' and it isn't just about renewable energy," says Ruffalo. "It's about en-

and they tend to move toward that when given the choice."

"Spotlight," which expands to theaters nationwide this weekend, dovetails

Catholic Church priests and subsequent efforts to cover up abuse cases.

The cast, including Michael Keaton, Liev Schreiber, Rachel McAdams and Stanley Tucci, is uniformly excellent. And the film, one of the year's most acclaimed, has been hailed for its verisimilitude in depicting the step-by-step digging of investigative journalism. Ruffalo, 47, plays Spotlight reporter Mike Rezendes.

"These are the people we want to celebrate. These are the people that deserve our admiration," says Ruffalo. "You can't have a free world without journalism, and it takes resources." To prepare for the role, Ruffalo spent time with Rezendes, observing him at work in the Globe newsroom and getting to know him at his home.

"As I told him, I said, 'You found out things about me I didn't want to know,' says Rezendes. "He worked very hard and he got it."

Rezendes, whom Ruffalo calls "a master" at his craft, continues to report on sex abuse and the church.

"The Catholic Church has taken some steps in the right direction, which I don't think it would have taken were it not for us. But it has a ways to go," says Rezendes. Ruffalo, his movie-star counterpart, is more emphatic. □



In this Oct. 28, 2015 file photo, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Michael Rezendes, left, stands for a photograph with actor Mark Ruffalo, who plays Rezendes in the film "Spotlight," as they attend the Boston area premiere of the film at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, in Brookline, Mass.

(most notably hydraulic fracturing) and passionate, striving characters, from the bipolar but exuberant father of "Infinitely Polar Bear" to his redemption-seeking music executive in "Begin Again." He does enthusiasm well, on screen

lightening and bringing to light the wrongs of the past. Everywhere I look, I see this inquiry happening. I think people are conscious. I think people are sick of it. They want righteousness. They want to know that's there's justice in the world,

with that mission. The film, directed by Tom McCarthy, is about the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting by the Boston Globe's team of investigative reporters — named Spotlight — that uncovered the widespread sex abuse of

Fox: We're ignoring overnight TV ratings

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fox network said Friday it will no longer distribute measurements of how many people watch their programs on the night they are first broadcast, reasoning that they are a poor reflection of how television is experienced these days.

Some cable networks, including HBO and FX, have already taken this step, but Fox is the first major broadcast network to do so.

Overnight reports from the

Nielsen company on how a program did in the ratings have long been the lifeblood of the television industry. Not only are they reported in the press, but Fox employees would get an email every morning at 8 a.m. PT reporting on how the shows performed the night before.

Starting Monday, that will stop, said Fox's top executives, Dana Walden and Gary Newman, in a memo distributed to staff on Friday. The overnight ratings don't include most people

who save the shows on DVRs, stream them online or watch on demand, they said. Within a week, more than one-third of the youthful audience that watched a given Fox show saw it after the night it first aired.

Seven of Fox's prime-time shows more than doubled their first-night audience when viewing over a 30-day period is figured in, Newman and Walden said. Nielsen releases ratings for viewership within 3 days, 7 days and 30 days.



In this image released by Crown Media, Steve Lund, left, and Sheneae Grimes-Beech appear in a scene from the Hallmark Channel film, "Christmas Incorporated." Associated Press

"Fox is a company that has always prided itself on being forward-thinking, and nothing could be more antiquated than a decades-old measurement that re-

flects only a portion of our audience," the executives said in their memo. "So together, let's move the ratings conversation into the future." □

In America's Little Syria, a divide on accepting refugees

MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, Pennsylvania

(AP) — A few days ago, a pastor asked Syrian-born restaurant owner Marie Jarrah to donate food to a welcoming event for recently arrived Syrian refugees. Jarrah, who said she regularly helps people in need, declined.

Like many of Allentown's establishment Syrians, she doesn't think it's a good idea to bring refugees to Pennsylvania's third-largest city. She clung to that view even before last week's terrorist attacks in Paris. "Problems are going to happen," said Jarrah, co-owner of Damascus Restaurant in a heavily Syrian enclave.

As debate intensifies nationally over the federal government's plan to accept an additional 10,000 refugees from war-ravaged Syria, a similar argument is taking place in Allentown — one with a sectarian twist.



Marie Jarrah, co-owner of the Damascus Restaurant, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015, in Allentown, Pa.

ries some Syrian refugees might have taken part in the fighting in Syria's civil war and have "blood on their hands."

"We need to know who we are welcoming in our society," said Wehbey, who immigrated to the United

they have not witnessed overt hostility or discrimination. Three refugees spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they worry the Assad government has informants in the city of about 120,000 — a widely held belief among Syrians here, both Christian and Muslim — and will retaliate against family back home.

The refugees said they're here to make a new life for themselves, not to stir up trouble. They have formed their own miniature support network, with earlier arrivals helping newcomers. Dozens have resettled in Allentown since March, with dozens more slated to come.

"I hope that one day I'm going to be a citizen of this great country," said one man, a married father of four.

The Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley, a mosque and school outside Allentown, has been working with the refugees, integrating them socially, sorting through donations of clothes, appliances and school supplies, and enrolling them in English-language classes.

"There's a lot of rhetoric, but we try not to even acknowledge the rhetoric, because right now there's a crisis," said Sherrine Eid, refugee coordinator at the

Muslim Association. "We have much bigger fish to fry."

The refugees are joining a Syrian community that dates to the late 1800s. Now numbering some 5,200 in the greater Lehigh Valley region, Syrian-Americans are deeply intertwined in Allentown's business and political life. The retired police chief, of Syrian descent, was elected county sheriff this month. Some Syrian Christians say they welcome the refugees.

"I don't have a problem

ship. "You're going to make them feel uncomfortable? No. Let them live."

An Orthodox church where many pro-Assad Syrians worship — and which recently sent a delegation to the Russian embassy in Washington to express gratitude for Russia's backing of Assad and its airstrikes in Syria — is hosting a benefit next month for Syrian refugees locally and abroad. The church has already directly assisted a Muslim refugee family in Allentown.

"We are concerned like everyone else," said Nasser Sabbagh, a board member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church and brother of the pastor. "We are concerned about the safety of the Lehigh Valley community and the Syrian community." But, he said, the refugees "are not terrorists. . I don't think we should isolate them and push them way."

On Sunday, religious leaders are hosting an interfaith event to welcome refugees to the area. The refugees have expressed reluctance to attend — concerned about a backlash in the wake of the Paris attacks — but the Rev. Larry Pickens, the event's coordinator, said he is working to "make them feel secure."



A Syrian refugee, who agreed to be photographed on condition of anonymity because of fear of retaliation against family living in Syria, prays on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015, at the Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley in Whitehall, Pa.

Allentown is home to one of the nation's largest populations of Syrians. They are mostly Christian and, in no small number, support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — a dynamic that's prompting some of them to oppose the resettlement of refugees, who are Muslim and say they fled violence perpetrated by the Assad regime.

Aziz Wehbey, an Allentown auto dealer and president of the American Amarian Syrian Charity Society, wor-

States a quarter-century ago and became a citizen.

The Obama administration says refugees must undergo a rigorous screening process that can take years. Nevertheless, the U.S. House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to make it more difficult for Syrian and Iraqi refugees to come to America.

Refugees say that they are aware of the opposition of some of Allentown's Syrians to their presence, but that



A Syrian refugee, who agreed to be photograph on condition of anonymity because of fear of retaliation against family living in Syria, opens her Quran, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015, at the Muslim Association of Lehigh Valley in Whitehall, Pa.

Associated Press

with anyone coming here. I came to America as an immigrant. That's what I am," said Osama Dayoub, 23, who was raised in Syria but moved to Allentown in 1999 and gained citizen-

The event is meant to "break down a barrier or two," Pickens, ecumenical director of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, said earlier this month. "There's a lot of distrust." □